

## **WWTP Finds Beneficial Use for “*Daphnia pulex*”**

The Frankfort Wastewater Treatment Plant has difficulty in settling solids in the final clarifiers during spring and fall due to *Daphnia pulex*. These macroscopic organisms are zooplankton and are barely visible with the naked eye. They live in water and have large antennas in comparison with the rest of their body. These are used to make jumpy movements—hence the name “water flea”. The water fleas make disinfection of the discharge to the Kentucky River more difficult and expensive as it increases the ozone demand. The plant generates the ozone used for disinfection.



Robert Oerther, Deputy Director for Operations, contacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Division of Water, Biological section and the Kentucky State University Aquaculture Center for species identification and research. Dr. Tidwell and Dr. Sims of KSU experimented with harvesting the water fleas as a live food source for their Paddlefish program. The picture below shows Allen Yocum and Bob Oerther using light to attract water fleas to a pumping system for harvesting and then transported to the Aquaculture Center for unloading.



### *NEED A SPEAKER?*

*The Sewer Department will provide a speaker for school presentations and club or organizational meetings. Please contact us at (502) 875-2448 for scheduling.*

### **How To Reach Us:**

Phone: (502) 875-2448

Fax: (502) 223-7857

- William R. Scalf, Jr., P.E., Director
- Robert Barker, Deputy for Collection System Operation & Expansion
- Robert Oerther, Deputy Director of Operations
- Carol Atha, Administrative Aide

## Employee Tidbits

### Welcome on Board—

*Daryll Ballinger* joined our department as Equipment Operator I in May, 2002. Daryll was self-employed and lives in Frankfort with his children.

*Will Lee*, a 21-year retiree from the department, has returned as a Plant Operator I in the wastewater treatment plant. Will and his wife reside in Sellersburg, Indiana.

### Congratulations—

*Bernard Woods* was promoted to Equipment Operator II in April, 2002. Bernard is approaching his 25th year with the department. He and his wife live in Lawrenceburg.

### Logo Contest—

*FSD employees* are participating in a contest to help design a Logo. Our next newsletter will feature the Logo and a new design format!

#### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS . . .

- Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was the first American to have plumbing installed in his house in 1840.
- The first American hotel with modern indoor bathrooms was *The Termont House* in Boston in the 1880's.

### CONTRACTS AWARDED TO . . .

- Perry Construction of Nicholasville, Kentucky for the U.S. 60 Force Main project
- BFI for the Landfarm/Landfill management of dewatered biosolids at the wastewater treatment plant.

## Focus on Robert L. Oerther Deputy Director of Operations



Bob is a Frankfort native and has over thirty years of experience in wastewater treatment. Bob began employment with the department in July, 1990 as Plant Manager. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a B.S. in Biology and is a Vietnam Veteran (Purple Heart recipient). Before coming to the department, Bob worked as an Environmental Program Coordinator with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water. He trained wastewater treatment operators for certification, conducted site training and provided technical assistance to municipalities throughout Kentucky that were having compliance problems.

Bob is certified through the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Division of Water as a Class IV Operator in wastewater treatment and is certified through the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Division of Waste Management as a Landfarm Operator. He insures that the wastewater treatment plant is operated and maintained in a safe and efficient manner. Bob administers special projects for the wastewater plant and coordinates the pretreatment program including sludge disposal. He establishes procedures and standards that are in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

His hobbies include woodworking and woodcarving, reading, painting and photography, gardening, fishing and hiking.

---

City of Frankfort Sewer Department  
1200 Kentucky Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED